

SEA TURTLE and SEA BIRD SAMPLING PROTOCOLS

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SEA TURTLE SAMPLING PROTOCOLS

Minimum requirements:

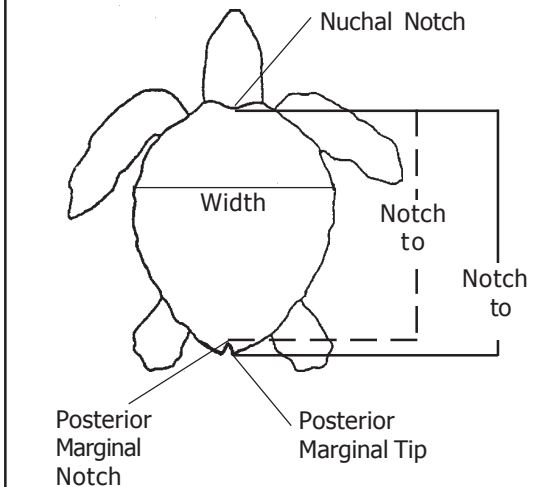
- 1 Identify and photograph.
- 2 Note any new or old injuries and scars.
- 3 Obtain 3 body measurements and 6 identification criteria.
- 4 Tag with inconel tag(s) on rear flipper(s): 1 for dead sea turtles, 2 for live sea turtles > 26 cm carapace length.
- 5 Scan for PIT tags on flippers and all soft tissues.
- 6 Obtain: Biopsy/tissue (genetic) sample.

Live Animals: Turtle must be greater than 25 cm carapace length.

Dead Animals: Obtain animals whole. If not possible then obtain biopsy/tissue sample.

Biopsy Location: Dorsal surface rear flipper 5-10 cm from trailing edge and close to body. **One biopsy per rear flipper.**

Figure 33. Sea turtle measurements.



SEA BIRD SAMPLING PROTOCOLS

Minimum requirements:

- 1 Identify and photograph.
- 2 Check for the presence of bands.

After sampling of the catch according to Tables 1a-h and/or Table 3 is completed, retain dead, fresh whole birds if caught in the area between Maine-New Jersey. Breast feathers may be collected if whole bird cannot be retained.

Do not assume that an inactive turtle is dead. The onset of rigor mortis is often the only definitive indication that a turtle is dead.

RESUSCITATION:

- 1 Place the turtle right side up (on the bottom shell or plastron).
- 2 Elevate the hindquarter several inches for a period of 2 up to 24 hours.
- 3 Place turtle in the shade and kept moist.
- 4 Touch the eye and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.

Those that revive and become active should be released over the stern of the boat when fishing gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels. Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within several hours (up to 24, if possible) should be returned to the water in the same manner.

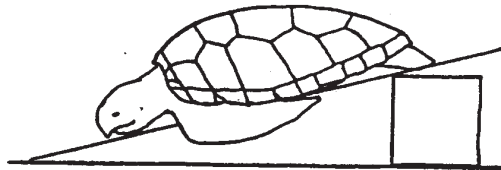
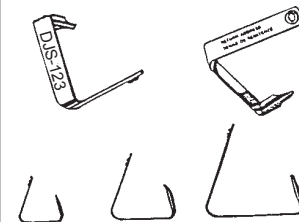


Figure 34. Proper positioning of turtle for resuscitation.

Figure 35. Inconel turtle tags.



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